

1) Setting Out

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- All planting beds and plant positions shall be set out in accordance with the approved soft landscaping plan, using dimensions taken from fixed, permanent reference points.
 - Planting beds shall be a minimum width of 600 mm wherever site conditions allow. Where planting beds are limited or undrained by contours, the contractor shall notify the site manager before proceeding, to agree whether the scheme is to be amended or local modifications made.
 - The soft landscaping works shall be carried out in the first planting season following the completion of the development phase. Any trees, shrubs or plants that die within a period of 5 years from the completion of the development, or which are removed and/or become seriously damaged or diseased in that period, shall be replaced in the first available planting season with others of similar size and species.
- ## 2) Ground Preparation
- Where weeds are present, apply a systemic herbicide in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. The Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986 (as amended), and COSHH 2002. Application shall only be by trained, certified operators. Multiple applications may be required on heavily weeded sites.
 - Topsoil within planting beds shall be inspected and remediated to comply with BS 3882:2015. Stones, rubble, and debris greater than 50 mm shall be removed.
 - To achieve free-draining, non-compacted conditions:
 - * Beds <5 m wide: cultivate to 300 mm depth by hand or rotavator
 - * Beds >5 m wide: subsoil to 300 mm depth by ripper at 500 mm centres to a depth of 500 mm, except within 10 m of trees or 3 m of edges, or where underground services are present.
 - Where subsoil or topsoil has >20% clay content, ameliorate with suitable organic matter or soil improver to achieve a friable structure. Apply a slow-release fertiliser (e.g. Hortibrite CR 18-8-12) at 100 g/m² in accordance with manufacturer's guidance.
 - Adjacent to grass or paved areas, planting beds shall be graded to 65 mm below finished surface level. Turf shall be flush with or up to 10 mm below adjoining hard surfaces.
 - Where topsoil shall be simply used for topdressing, a 100 mm texture class appropriate to planting requirements, <20% clay, and free of stones >50 mm.

3) Planting

Shrubs and Herbaceous Plants

- Planting shall be carried out in accordance with the approved drawings, plant schedule, and BS 4228:1989.
- Plant at correct depth with the root collar at finished soil level.
- Substitutions shall not be permitted without prior written approval of the project manager and client. All stock shall comply with the HTA National Plant Specification, be healthy, vigorous, free from pests, diseases, deformity, or damage, and true to type.
- Shrubs (except ground cover) shall be 400–600 mm height and spread, unless otherwise specified.
- Immediately after planting, apply water at 20 L/m².

Tree Planting Methodology

1. Excavation: Excavate square pits at least 300 mm wider than the rootball/container/root spread. The pit base shall be slightly domed; break up only if drainage is poor.
2. Backfilling: Place tree so that the root collar is level with finished ground. Backfill with subsoil up to ~400 mm below surface, then topsoil to match site profile. Firm backfill in layers.
3. Tree Ties: Trees may be supported by wire-tied, unbanded, or bare-root stock, provided they comply with the approved specification and the HTA National Plant Specification. Bare-root trees must be planted during the dormant season (Nov–Mar) and roots kept covered/damp prior to planting.
4. Staking & Ties: In line with BS 8545:2014, provide:
 - Standard and feathered trees: minimum single stake, double if required.
 - Heavy standards and multi-stems: double or angled staking to provide additional support.
 - Stakes: round timber, driven outside rootball, projecting ~600 mm above ground.
 - Ties: biodegradable, Hessian, or rubber, positioned to avoid stem abrasion.
5. Watering Dish (grassed areas only):
 - A shallow, circular depression formed in the soil around the tree base, with raised edges to retain irrigation directly over the rootball.
 - Standard trees (≤3 m height): approx. 1.0 m diameter.
 - Heavy standards (>3 m height or >12–14 cm girth): approx. 1.5 m diameter.
 - Not required in shrub or mulched beds.
6. Initial Watering: Apply a minimum of 25 L clean water per tree immediately after planting.
7. Irrigation Systems: Install a slow-release irrigation system such as a 75 L Treegator or equivalent to each standard and heavy standard tree.
8. Mulching: Apply medium-grade, untreated organic woodchip mulch to a minimum settled depth of 50 mm:
 - Standard trees: minimum 1.0 m diameter.
 - Heavy standards: minimum 1.5 m diameter.
 - Mulch must be kept 50 mm clear of the stem.
9. Timing: Planting shall be carried out in the first planting season (October–February) following completion of development works.

Hedge Planting

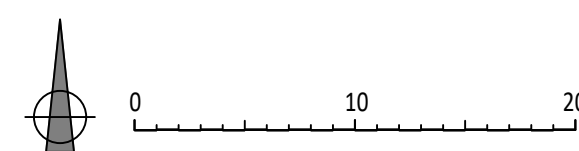
- Trenches shall be minimum 400 mm deep $\times$ 600 mm wide.
- Plants to be set at the same depth as grown in the nursery, spaced as per the approved plan.
- Roots of bare-root plants must not dry out prior to planting. Keep roots covered with damp hessian/straw, or heel into soil until planting.
- After planting, heel in firmly and water during dry weather.
- Mulch hedges with untreated organic woodchip mulch, 50 mm minimum settled depth, medium grade.
- Planting shall be carried out in the first planting season (October–February) following completion of development works.

4) Mulch and Supports

- Climbing plants requiring support shall be trained onto galvanised or stainless steel wire supports fixed with stainless steel eyescrews at 250 mm from ground and 250 mm from the top of the wall/fence, with wires tensioned between. Fix climbers with plastic-coated wire ties.
- Tree staking and mulching as set out above under Tree Planting Methodology.
- Where grassed areas extend to the tree pit edge, install rabbit/deer guards in line with BS 8601:2013.

5) Aftercare

- Maintain hedges, trees, and shrubs for 3–5 years following planting to ensure successful establishment. Carry out annual pruning/trimming in accordance with species requirements.
- Provide supplementary irrigation for the first 24 months, tailored to prevailing weather. During summer months, water 3–7 times per week to maintain soil moisture and plant health.
- Trees shall receive supplementary irrigation for at least 2 years. Water every 3–5 days in summer. Tree hydration bags (e.g. 75 L Treegator) are recommended to reduce frequency and ensure deep water.



Project	Land at Blacksmiths Lane		
Client	The Trustee Trusty		
Drawing	Soft-Landscaping Scheme (00)		
Planning Ref.	V3	Date:	16/12/2025
Scale	n/a - A1	A. Beighton	
Notes			
Issued on:	Proposed Site Plan		



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